

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05637 01 OF 02 241516Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /111 W
-----120847 241529Z /45

P 241503Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9515
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 05637

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PBOR, UR, CU, ET, SO, IT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON HORN

SUMMARY: UNDER INSTRUCTIONS ITALIAN EMBASSY DELIVERED
LOW LEVEL DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON SUBJECT OF HORN.
SOVIETS OFFERED NO ASSURANCES REGARDING CUBAN OR SOVIET
FORCES IN ETHIOPIA OR ABOUT INTERNAL OGADEN ARRANGEMENTS,
BUT DID INDICATE DESIRE FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION IN
ERITREA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ITALIAN EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED US A BRIEFING ON
THE DEMARCHE ON THE HORN OF AFRICA WHICH ITALIAN
COUNSELOR RASTRELLI MADE ON MARCH 23 TO A. M. TIMOSHCHENKO,
DEPUTY CHIEF, THIRD AFRICAN DEPT., MFA. UPON THE
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, THE LEVEL
WAS KEPT DELIBERATELY LOW.

2. THE DEMARCHE CONSISTED OF THE FOLLOWING MAJOR POINTS:
-- THERE IS A NECESSITY FOR THE DISENGAGEMENT OF ALL
FOREIGN FORCES PRESENT IN THE REGION OF THE HORN TO
CLEAR THE WAY FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SOLVE PEACEFULLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05637 01 OF 02 241516Z

AND FOR A LONG DURATION THE PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.
-- THE COUNTRIES WHICH CAN INFLUENCE THE PARTIES DIRECTLY
CONCERNED MUST USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO OVERCOME THE
DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO
ENABLE THEIR COMMENCEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
-- THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, WHICH STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS .
COULD START UPON THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOMALI TROOPS,

IS ENCOURAGED TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

-- AFTER THE STATEMENTS OF THE CUBAN LEADERSHIP THAT CUBA INTENDS NO HARM TO ERITREA AND IS AGAINST A CUBAN MILITARY ROLE IN ERITREA, WE (THE ITALIANS) HOPE THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL HELP TO CONVINCE THE CUBANS OF THE NEED TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE "FRAMEWORK OF GLOBAL AGREEMENT" IN AFRICA. (IN RASTRELLI'S OWN WORDS, THIS LAST "CLUMSY PHRASE" WAS APPARENTLY THE ITALIAN MFA'S WAY OF REFERRING TO THE OAU.)

3. TIMOSHCHENKO LISTENED CAREFULLY, TOOK HIS OWN NOTES, AND, IN REPLY, SAID:

-- THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY KNOWN TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. MOSCOW SUPPORTED THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA AND FAVORED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BY BOTH SIDES.
-- THE SOVIET UNION HAD TAKEN SEVERAL STEPS BEFORE AND DURING THE WAR TO CONVINCE THE SOMALIS NOT TO OCCUPY THE OGADEN. THESE STEPS WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL AND, IN THE END, THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY AND PEOPLE'S MILITIA HAD OBTAINED VICTORY ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 05637 01 OF 02 241516Z

-- THE SOVIET UNION AGREES THAT THE TWO SIDES MUST, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, NORMALIZE THEIR RELATIONS ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND SOVEREIGNTY. THE PREVIOUS VIOLATION OF THE BORDERS BY WAR WAS AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION AS WELL AS AGAINST THE DECISIONS OF THE 1964 OAU CONFERENCE. THE TWO SIDES ARE PRE-CONDITIONED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BECAUSE ETHIOPIA DOES NOT INTEND TO CROSS THE SOMALIA BORDER. HOWEVER, IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND THAT THE ISSUE OF THE OGADEN WILL NOT BE PART OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE IT IS PART OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY.

-- WITH REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN FORCES, I.E., - CUBAN FORCES (COMMENT: ACCORDING TO RASTRELLI, TIMOSHCHENKO WAS MAKING THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT HE WAS NOT WILLING TO EVEN DISCUSS THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THIS CONTEXT. END COMMENT), THE ATTITUDE OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS EMPHASIZED BY CASTRO'S RECENT SPEECH IN WHICH HE SAID CUBA WAS AGAINST THE WAR AND HAD LIMITED ITS ROLE TO ACCEPTING THE ETHIOPIAN INVITATION TO SEND "SPECIALISTS." THIS WAS THE RIGHT OF ETHIOPIA. THIS MATTER NOW CONCERNS ONLY CUBA AND ETHIOPIA.

-- WITH REGARD TO ERITREA, THE SOVIET UNION HOPES THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND SINCE THE ETHIOPIAN "POPULAR FRONT" HAS THE SAME IDEOLOGICAL AIMS AS THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION. IF THE ERITREANS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION TO TRY TO SEPARATE FROM ETHIOPIA, THIS WILL SURELY MEAN THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY OUTSIDE COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: RASTRELLI FELT THAT LAST POINT WAS SIMPLY FOR PROPAGANDA EFFECT, PERHAPS TO BUILD AN ADVANCE CASE FOR SUBSEQUENT CRITICISM OF THE U.S. HE INTERPRETED TIMOSHCHENKO'S COMMENT ON THE NON-NEGOTIABILITY OF THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05637 02 OF 02 260146Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 /111 W
-----000618 260154Z /70/43

P 241503Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9516
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 05637

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

OGADEN ISSUE TO MEAN THAT THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN THE OGADEN WOULD ALSO NOT BE ALLOWED AS A SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN CLOSING, TIMOSHCHENKO HAD REPEATED HIS EMPHASIS ON THE PRINCIPLE OF "SOVEREIGNTY" SAYING "I THINK YOU GET THIS POINT." RASTRELLI TOOK THIS, PLUS THE GENERAL TONE OF TIMOSHCHENKO'S REMARKS, TO MEAN THAT THERE REALLY WASN'T MUCH LEFT FOR DISCUSSION IN THE ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI NEGOTIATIONS NOW THAT THE FIGHTING WAS OVER.

5. EMBASSY NOTES THAT RASTRELLI DID NOT REPORT

TIMOSHCHENKO'S USE OF THE THIRD PART OF THE USUAL SOVIET
TRILOGY OF PRINCIPLES, I.E., NON-INTERFERENCE IN
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE EXPECT THAT THIS WAS SIMPLY
AN ITALIAN OVERSIGHT RATHER THAN AN OMISSION ON THE PART
OF TIMOSHCHENKO. TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW05637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780130-0652
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780328/aaaaaxpw.tel
Line Count: 174
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: def137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212694
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON HORN SUMMARY: UNDER INSTRUCTIONS ITALIAN EMBASSY DELIVERED LOW LEVEL DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS ON SUBJECT OF HORN.
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PBOR, UR, CU, ET, SO, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/def137be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014